

### REMARKS

At the time of this response, claims 1-18 and 34-89 are pending. Claims 19-33 have been cancelled. Claims 66-89 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-8 and 10-18 have been rejected. Claim 9 has been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. Claim 1 is currently amended to incorporate the features of claim 9. Claims 9 and 66-89 are cancelled.

Claims 34, 38, 41, 43, 46-49, 52-56, 61, and 62 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 24, 25, 27-29, 31-36, and 38-40 of U.S. Pat. No. 6,342,285. In response to this rejection, Applicants' file a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c). The terminal disclaimer is included with this response. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

Claims 34-65, as noted by the Examiner, contain allowable subject matter. Applicants, therefore, submit that these claims are allowable for at least the reasons cited by the Examiner.

Claim 9 has been objected to as depending from a rejected base claim. However, the Examiner has noted that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. In response, Applicants currently amend claim 1 to include each and every feature of claim 9. Further, Applicants cancel claim 9.

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 10, 11, 13, and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by, or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 5,891,547 issued to Lawless ("Lawless"). As noted above, Applicants currently amend claim 1 to incorporate those features of claim 9 that the Examiner has noted are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 and all other claims listed above, each of which depends either directly or indirectly from claim 1, are allowable.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 12, 14, and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lawless. Because Applicants currently amend claim 1 to incorporate allowable subject matter, and because each of these claims depends either directly or indirectly

Applicant : William H. Shepard et al.  
Serial No. : 09/996,618  
Filed : November 27, 2001  
Page : 10 of 10

Attorney's Docket No.: 05918-130002 / 3643


from currently amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that each of these claims is allowable.

Applicants respectfully request the allowance of claims 1-8, 10-18, and 34-65.

No fees are believed to be due, however, please apply any charges, or any credits, to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 1-6-04

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael R. Hamlin  
Reg. No. 54,149

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
225 Franklin Street  
Boston, MA 02110-2804  
Telephone: (617) 542-5070  
Facsimile: (617) 542-8906